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Bush In, Colby Out

GEORGE BUSH is taking over as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency at a time when he must wonder if he is getting a bargain. Is he becoming captain of a sinking ship?

BUSH was confirmed by the Senate Tuesday to replace a career intelligence officer, WILLIAM COLBY, as head of the agency that is getting kicked around in Congress more than anything or anyone since RICHARD NIXON.

To be sure, the CIA's past has been spotted with some regrettable, not to say inexcusable, chapters. But the answer to those sins has been for the agency to be gutted by Congressional committees, sometimes to further political careers.

A body that depends on secrecy has had much of its deepest classified material exposed to public view. Nothing is sacrosanct in Washington any more; when a Congressional body gets its hands on documents they become only as secret as the

front page of the NEW YORK TIMES and WASHINGTON POST or the evening tv news. Leaks of Government secrets have become an epidemic in the Capital.

It is laughable, in this atmosphere, that Sen. FRANK CHURCH of Idaho, one of the principal offenders in the anti-CIA movement for political gain, led a liberal maneuver in the Senate to prevent BUSH's confirmation. And what was the objection to the nominee? Get this: He was too *political*, because he once served as Republican National Chairman.

A politician to head the CIA? Heavens above! We can't have that. . . . our country needs its politicians right where they are, in Congress where they and their staffs can treat the CIA as if it were Watergate No. 2!

So COLBY goes out, a harassed and discouraged man. BUSH comes in fresh and eager—but he'd better be prepared to wear his life-preserver day and night—and keep a sharp eye out for torpedoes.